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den Verhandlungen des Deutschen Wissenschaftlichen Vereins in Santiago, Band iv.) Valparaiso : 1898. 8°, 53 pp.

In these critical publications, the well-known philologist of Santiago de Chile undertakes to rectify what he conceives to be serious errors, both in methods and results, on the part of an equally well-known student of Amerindian languages at secondhand. Dr Lenz has the immeasurable advantage of personal acquaintance with the native tribes whose activities have interested him so deeply, and whose tongues he has so industriously and faithfully recorded ; and his expressions are accordingly entitled to serious and respectful attention. His "Conclusiones" translated freely from the first-named critique are as follows : (1) The introduction relating to the Araucanos abounds in incongruities. (2) The grammar comprised in the book is a mediocre translation into French of the most incomplete of the ancient grammars, viz : that of Padre Luis de Valdivia, 1606. (3) The extracts from the vocabularies of Valdivia and Febrés-Larsen are uncritical, and contain many hundreds of mistranslations and manifest errors. (4) The Araucanian texts from Valdivia are badly reprinted and worse analyzed ; those taken from the "Estudios Araucanos" [of the author] are so disfigured by misinterpretations of phonetic signs and of words as to be rendered useless. (5) In consequence, *the whole book is entirely without utility or the slightest value* ; it adds nothing to our knowledge of the language, and is quite inferior to the works of the missionaries of past centuries. (6) By reason of the thousands of errors and imperfections, *it is utterly impossible to use the work either for scientific or practical purposes*. In his final conclusion, Dr Lenz questions M. de la Graserie's scientific knowledge and even his scientific and literary integrity, and ends by expressing the hope that the publication of such works on the American languages may be discontinued.

W J MCGEE.

Chess and Playing-Cards. By STEWART CULIN. (Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution . . . Report of the U. S. National Museum, 1896.) Washington, 1898. 8°, pp. 665-942, pls. 1-50.

During recent years anthropologists have given much attention to games, especially those of primitive peoples. Various publications have resulted. The eminent Briton, Tylor, has described and discussed the games of the Amerinds ; Cushing has brought out the exceeding significance of the arrow in primitive games ; Director Culin has issued a luminous monograph on the games of Korea, China, and

Japan, in addition to lesser writings of standard value ; while other contributors have added their quota to the growing literature of the subject. Some of the contributions are primarily descriptive, with an undertone of theory governing the arrangement ; others, like the memoir under notice, are essentially descriptive and comparative, the arrangement being shaped by the relations brought out through extended comparison. Collectively, the publications, especially those of Messrs Culin and Cushing, have reduced the chaos of primitive games to fairly satisfactory order, and have furnished an apparently sound basis for further inquiry. In detail, *Chess and Playing-Cards* is a catalogue of games and implements for divination exhibited at the Atlanta Exposition of 1895 ; in substance, it is the richest contribution thus far made to game-science—and that despite the fact that many of the most significant relations are left to be read between lines of too-condensed description.

The science of games began with the discovery that the gaming of primitive peoples is primarily divinatory or sortilegic ; it took final shape through the further discovery that most of the divinatory devices are traceable to that fecund seed of intellectual product, the arrow. The first of these discoveries defined the dynamic or actional basis of gaming, while the second indicated the sequential or developmental basis ; and the two afforded means for marshalling the facts in logical order and perceiving previously obscure relations. Proceeding on the basis afforded by these discoveries, it became easy to trace the intellectual history of gaming as a manifestation of esthetic and sophic activities ; to follow the early rise and extraordinary extension of the sortilegic factor, and its tardy recognition as an expression of chance ; and to take note of the sluggish growth of skill to the point at which this factor became appreciably potent, and its rapid waxing thenceforward as the chance element waned. Fortunately for students, the earlier developmental stages are not completely lost in the mists of antiquity like those of certain other human activities, but are found in all their various steps and degrees among living peoples, as Director Culin's collections clearly show.

Long before the recognition of the dynamic and sequential bases of gaming, the attention of students was caught by similarities in the gaming devices of widely separated peoples, and these similarities were among the activital coincidences at first regarded as evidences of ancestral unity ; but recent researches tend to clear up the confusion on this point. The extended comparisons indicate, indeed, that the games of higher culture are derived from those of lower culture, and either

elaborated or simplified as the case may be by combination, with the retention of desirable and the elimination of undesirable features ; the comparative studies clearly indicate, too, that the more primitive games are indigenous or autochthonous with respect to their players, being (so far as can be determined) the product of spontaneous esthetic or sophic impulse directed by environmental suggestion and finally shaped by intelligence normal to the stage of cultural development in which the players rest. This is the view suggested by the arrangement of facts in *Chess and Playing-Cards* and evidently held by the author—though this is one of the cases in which the general view appears between lines rather than in explicit statement.

Readers of the book may be repelled and discouraged not only by the condensation and incomplete statement of relation proper to a catalogue, but by the curiously chaotic book-making—evidently due to the expansion of the original catalogue into a book. There are many manifestations of this chaos, which becomes especially conspicuous when the nominal and actual contents are compared. Half a dozen lines of the table of contents (including six out of a hundred and twenty-three apparently coördinate titles) are as follows :

	Page
Introduction	679
1. Nyout. Korea.....	681
2. Gaming arrows. Kiowa Indians, Indian Territory.....	685
3. Zohn ahl (awl game). Kiowa Indians, Indian Territory.....	687
4. Táb. Egypt.....	805
5. Game sticks. Singapore, Straits Settlements.....	807

In the body of the book the "Introduction" passes, without break, into what appears to be a subordinate side-title, which is, however, the principal title, "1. Nyout"; then follow two still less conspicuous side-titles relating to the Kiowa Indians; but under the second of these falls a center-title, followed by a long series of main and minor titles relating to the various gaming devices of the Amerinds, occupying a hundred and sixteen pages or two-fifths of the entire book (and by far the most important part to American readers), which is absolutely without reference in the list of contents! Next come two more inconspicuous side-titles, and under the second three lines pertaining to the subject indicated; then, without literary break or reference in the contents, over a dozen pages (with half a dozen most interesting plates) relating to the gaming devices recorded in the classics and to African and other games, again without reference in the list! This literary imperfection is a burden on the reader, a blemish on the publication, and a needless blight on the authorship, in that it goes far

toward reducing a scientific contribution of the first order to the level of a mere collection (albeit an important one) of scientific data. The defects are not of such character as to stand in the way of appreciation of the rich body of material brought together, or of the rational classification evidently resting in the mind of the author ; yet they must lead readers to hope for a more systematic presentation, at an early day, from one who has done so much to raise the study of games to the plane of science.

W J MCGEE.

Explorations in the Far North. By FRANK RUSSELL. *Being the report of an expedition under the auspices of the University of Iowa during the years 1892, '93, and '94.* [Iowa City :] Published by the University, 1898. 8°, ix, 290 pp., ills., map.

This modest publication is the record of a remarkable exploration of Arctic America. Dr Russell (now of Harvard) set out in the interest of the State University of Iowa to make natural-history collections in the neighborhood of Great Slave lake, and thence northward to the shores of the Arctic ; in carrying out his plan, he was brought in contact with the various Athapascan tribes, lived in their lodges, and otherwise suffered opportunities for making their intimate acquaintance. One of his hardest trips led him northeastward from Fort Rae across Coppermine river and nearly to Bathurst inlet, where he shot a number of musk-oxen and brought out their heads and skins by dint of incredible labor ; then he undertook the unprecedented task of canoeing down Mackenzie river throughout its entire length and along the coast of the Arctic ocean from its mouth to Herschel island, in order to make connection with a fleet of whalers of which a rumor had come to him—and this essay, like the others of his unique expedition, was successfully accomplished. Half of his book is devoted to the itinerary ; the other half comprises four chapters on ethnology, with an extended supplement on the natural history of the region traversed. The notes on the Athapascan tribes are of value, though most of the linguistic notes are withheld for future publication. A considerable collection of ethnologic material (now preserved in the State University of Iowa) was made, and is illustrated in the work, this material representing both Athapascan and Eskimo handicraft ; and a chapter is devoted to the myths of the Cree Indians of the Woods. The author deploras the meagerness of his ethnographic notes and material ; yet he has succeeded, in itinerary as well as in the special chapters, in presenting a remarkably clear and instructive picture of tribesmen engaged in bitter struggle against the most inhospitable environment of the North American continent.

W J MCGEE.